

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an electrophotographic printer, comprising the steps of:

transporting a print medium at a first operating speed using a print medium transport assembly to a fuser assembly including a fuser roll;

~~transporting the print medium from said print medium transport assembly to a fuser assembly, said fuser assembly including a fuser roll;~~

~~creating a bubble in the print medium between said paper transport assembly and said fuser assembly;~~

determining a temperature associated with said fuser roll; and

rotating said fuser roll at a second operating speed which is dependent upon said determined temperature such that a bubble in the print medium between said paper transport assembly and said fuser assembly is created.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first operating speed is a linear speed and said second operating speed is a rotational speed.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said rotational speed is dependent upon an effective diameter of said fuser roll, said effective diameter being dependent upon said determined temperature.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said effective diameter increases up to 2.5% of a nominal fuser roll diameter over an operating temperature range of said fuser roll.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said effective diameter increases up to 1.2% of a nominal fuser roll diameter over an operating temperature range of said fuser roll.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determined temperature is between approximately 60°C to 190°C.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said determined temperature is between approximately 145°C to 170°C.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of setting a nominal operating temperature of said fuser roll, dependent upon physical properties of the print medium.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of changing said second operating speed to a different second operating speed when a print medium is not present at said fuser roll.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said bubble in the print medium is created by driving said fuser roll at a second operating speed corresponding to a linear speed which is slower than said first operating speed.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises one of:
determining said temperature of said fuser roll using a look-up table; and
sensing a temperature of said fuser roll.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an electrophotographic printer, comprising the steps of:

transporting a print medium at a first operating speed using a print medium transport assembly to a fuser assembly including a driven member, said print medium transport assembly including at least one of a belt and a plurality of rolls and said driven member including one of a roll and a belt;

~~transporting the print medium to a fuser assembly including a driven member, said driven member including one of a roll and a belt;~~

~~creating a bubble in the print medium between said print medium transport assembly and said fuser assembly;~~

determining a temperature associated with said driven member; and

driving said driven member at a second operating speed which is dependent upon said determined temperature such that a bubble is created in the print medium between said print medium transport assembly and said fuser assembly.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said driven member is a fuser roll, said first operating speed is a linear speed and said second operating speed is a rotational speed.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said rotational speed is dependent upon an effective diameter of said fuser roll, said effective diameter being dependent upon said determined temperature.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said effective diameter increases up to 2.5% of a nominal fuser roll diameter over an operating temperature range of said fuser roll.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said effective diameter increases up to 1.2% of a nominal fuser roll diameter over an operating temperature range of said fuser roll.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said effective diameter increases approximately 0.37% for a legal size print medium, and increases approximately 0.57% for a letter size print medium.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said determined temperature is between approximately 60°C to 190°C.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said determined temperature is between approximately 145°C to 170°C.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, including the step of setting a nominal operating temperature of said driven member, dependent upon physical properties of the print medium.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said determining step comprises one of: determining said temperature of said driven member using a look-up table; and sensing a temperature of said driven member.
22. (Original) The method of claim 12, including the step of changing said second operating speed to a different second operating speed when a print medium is not present in a fusing region of said fuser assembly.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said bubble in the print medium is created by driving said driven member at a second operating speed corresponding to a linear speed which is slower than said first operating speed.